# JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

entral Hills camps go on as planned

By William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

FE (UARY 10, 2011 **VOL. 135** No. 6

ICE 1877



The powerful tornado that roared across Central Hills Retreat just a few minutes after midnight on New Years Day will not hamper scheduled events and activities at the Mississippi Baptist campground near West, according to camp manager Jim Ray.

"We're actually ahead of schedule for repairing the tornado damage and getting the facilities ready for camping," said Ray. "The volunteer groups who have come to help us have been incredible, and the construction crews that have been brought in are going to put the damaged facilities back in good shape."

Some activity sites will be shifted from damaged areas, Ray said, while other areas will have marked improvements. "We see this as an opportunity to make Central Hills Retreat even better than it was before the tornado," he pointed out. Directors and consultants from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) who have responsibilities for upcoming events and activities at Central Hills participated in a Feb. 1 prayer walk around the campground and assessed the cleanup and repair efforts.

"There's a plan in place for housing. The pool and the lake are unharmed. The horses are fine and the trails have been cleared. I don't see a problem," said Angie Boydstun, a consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department who is in charge of two weeks of Bible study/worship camps for children slated for late June.

"We're going fiell steam ahead," said Ken Hall, a consultant in the MBCB

Hills right now," Hall said.

Camp manager Ray said he didn't have to do a sales job when the directors and consultants showed up on Feb. 1.

"After everyone saw the effort that is being made and heard about the steps being taken to prepare for the camps this summer, they were ready to go forward with their plans."

Barri A. Shirley, MBCB associate executive director for business services, said contractors have been lined up for the campground work that the volunteers are not equipped to

unteers are not equipped to handle. All indications are that

Central Hills will be ready for camping this summer, he added.

"We're looking forward to another God-honoring year of camp and conferences at Central Hills Retreat. While the storm created many challenges, it has also provided an equal number of opportunities for the expansion of usable grounds and updated facilities.

"It is through the extraordinary efforts of volunteer teams, partnerships with selected contractors, and the dedication of the camp and MBCB staffs, that Central Hills will stand ready to serve Mississippi Baptists in 2011 and for years to come."

Only a few people were at the campground when the tornado struck. Most of them were inside Carey Lodge, participating in an annual New Years Evereunion of former Central Hills staffers. The camp opened in 1979.

Located in the deep woods of Attala County between West and Kosciusko, Central Hills has a full-size gymnasium, junior Olympic swimming pool, large lake, horseback riding, canoeing, regula-

central Hills has a full-size gymnasium, junior Olympic swimming pool, large lake, horseback riding, canoeing, regulation flag football field, rock climbing wall and ropes course, three heated and cooled lodges that house up to 240 people, a complete dining hall and kitchen, and a recreational vehicle park with 41 hook-ups, kitchen, showers, and assembly hall.

For more information on Central Hills Retreat, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: doail@mbcb.org.



Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department who is responsible for a pair
of student summer camps scheduled for
June. "I have full confidence that the
camps will be ready to go. Central Hills
is going to be better because of what is
happening there."

Hall said the demand for last
year's single week of student
summer camp convinced planners to open up a second week in
this year's schedule — the first
time in several years that more
than one week of student summer camp has been available.

"We're building on the success
and momentum from last year.
We have a great program this
year, and we're designing the
theme around the 'new beginning' that's going on at Central
Hills right now," Hall said.

Camp manager Ray said he
didn't have to do a sales job

pusiness services at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), describe epairs and renovations to Carey Lodge at Central Hills Retreat near West, which wa aked by a powerful New Years Day tornado. Directors and consultants with responsibilities for events and activities at Central Hills this coming summer heard during the Feb. 1 prayer walk around the campground that all summer events and activities will be conducted as originally scheduled. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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VOLUME 135 . NUMBER 6

(ISSN-0005-5778)

William H. Perkins Ir.

# A few years ago, Newsweek magazine published a haunting article we should all read again and remember, the subject of which should serve as both a caution and as an object of prayer. It is the story of the children of St. Michael, a tiny Eskimo village in Alaska so remote in the 1960s that no roads connected it to the rest of the

1960s that no roads connected it to the rest of the world and there was only one telephone for the whole community. Everyone was poor.

St. Michael was rich in one way, however. Villagers were proud of their children, who whiled away the long days in the colorful berry fields of the frozen tundra or on the ice of the Bering Strait, fishing for the abundant tomcod. In many ways it was an idyllic, if isolated, life.

It was into that setting that the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church sent a number of priests and we rivers representing the Church, who now stand accused of sexually molesting almost every child in St.

we rivers representing the Church, who now stand accused of sexually molesting almost every child in St. Michael over an unbroken string of four decades.

"It is one of the darkest chapters of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church," the Newsweek article states. "More than 110 children in Eskimo villages claim they were molested between 1959 and 1986, raped or assaulted by 12 priests and three church volunteers. Families and victims believe that another 22 people were sexually abused by clergy members but have since killed themselves. The Jesuit Oregon Province, which includes Alaska, has agreed to pay \$50 million in damages. It is believed to be the largest settlement ever against a religious order."

Tom Cheemuk told Newsweek he was one of the victims. Now a 53-year-old alcoholic, Cheemuk has not only attempted to kill himself because of his anger and shame, he has lost two brothers to suicide and wonders if they too were abused. He alleges he was abused by more than one priest at the same time.

Newsweek also discovered from court filings that one priest covered under the Jesuit settlement is accused of fathering four children and encouraging a 16-year-old girl to have an abortion, which she did. Another priest allegedly impregnated a young girl,



The children of St. Michael

then pressured her to blame it on her father and have an abortion. "These priests had abused elsewhere and then were unleashed in the most uncontrolled environment," Patrick Wall told Newsweek. Wall is a former Benedictine monk

eisewhere and Jinen were unleashed in the most uncontrolled environment," Patrick Wall told Newsweek. Wall is a former Benedictine monk and Catholic priest who served as a consultant to attorneys in the Alaska suits.

The story of the children of St. Michael should serve as a caution to us, because the same thing could happen to Mississippi Baptists. Don't be shocked, and don't avert your eyes in disbelief. There has been at least one Mississippi Baptist church in a similar (but not identical) situation, and there are probably others.

Think about it. Is there a more "target-rich" environment for pedophiles than our churches? Is there another place where more children gather in greater numbers under the trusting supervision of adults? How well do you know the adults to whom you entrust your church's children? How well do you know them, really?

At your Mississippi Baptist Convention board employees have contact with children at some time in the course of their jobs. It's not a foolproof process, but it sure beats doing nothing—and nothing is what too many of our churches are doing.

The leaders of every church in the Mississippi Baptist Convention should consult with their attorney to put together a legal system for checking everyone who works with the church's children. The thousands of legitimate children's workers will not be offended by being a part of a system that screens out the few predators who would take advantage of a church's trust.

Not doing so can be devastating. Not many churches have \$50 million to settle lawsuits, but there's an even greater cost.

"You see the alcoholism, the severe mental problems, people in and out of jail," an attorney who has handled many of the Alaska cases told Newsweek, "and you wonoder, how do you put Humpty Dumpty back on the wall?"

The fact is you can't. That's why we should be praying for the children of \$t. Michael, and ensuring that all, the children in our Mississippi Baptist churches are as safe as they can be. Start today.

**GUEST OPINION:** 



Super Bowl ads: just embarassing

> By Brett Maragni Jacksonville, Fl.

The Super Bowl used to be known for having the most entertaining and creative commercials — emphasis on "used to be." This

year was embarrassing.

Lack of creativity by the marketing departments of certain companies manifested itself by a display of inappropriate innuendo and at least one use of obscene language. I don't know if there was more because I started hitting the mute button during was more because I started nit-ting the mute button during every commercial break. I had enough of crude references to parts of the female anatomy. It used to be that cursing and

innuendo was reserved for men at sea or in locker rooms. Now

at sea or in locker rooms. Now it's pumped through our televisions into our parties with women and children present.

What is especially perplexing is that Fox rejected a John 3:16 advertisement because it would be too controversial. Telling the world that God loves them might offend someone but having a man repeat the phrase, "I want to sleep with her" multiple times is entirely appropriate? The people who are making these decisions for Fox should be ashamed.

Before we get too exercised

(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date, All submissions Before we get too exercised with the companies producing these commercials and the networks that run them, we need to remind ourselves that American companies give Americans what they want. We are very naïve if we believe that these companies

are motivated by a desire to cause our women to blush and our children to be corrupted.

They are motivated to sell. Big money was count in market research prior to airing their multi-multi-multion dollar commercials. They were not taking a calculated risk that mainstream America might react with shock and resolve to boycott their products. They were banking on the truth that most Americans would laugh at their crude humor and laugh at their crude humor and continue purchasing their wares They did their homework and

They did their homework and knew for certain that their PG-13 commercials would be accepted and even embraced. In other words, if Americans were not buying the trash, the companies would not be selling it.

What can you do about it?

Well, for one, you can ignore them by hitting the mute button or you could take it a step further and purchase from their competition. That would be an

you to voice your displeasure with your wallet. Another thing you might consider doing would be writing gracious letters to the offending companies, ters to the offending companies, letting them know how much you would appreciate it if they were more thoughtful about their commercials and about

This also serves as a reminder to Christians that we need to let the light of Christ permeate in all areas of life. Sometimes we might be guilty of only celebrating how God is using his servants who are in full-time vocational ministry, whether it be a pastor, youth pastor, missionary, or evangepastor, missionary, or evange-list, but one of the marks of the

God just as the pastor could his sermon. We need to celebrate excellence in every field.

excellence in every field.

One commercial stood out above the rest, in my opinion. A young boy is dressed up in a Darth Vader outfit from the Star Wars movies and spends his day at home marching around the house attempting to utilize the power of the "Force" upon all sorts of items: a baby doll, his dog, the washing machine, his lunch, all to no avail and to his disappointment. Then Dad disappointment. Then Dad comes home from work and pulls into the driveway in his new Volkswagen. Dad goes in the house, and from the kitchen

the house, and from the kitchen window, starts the car with his keychain car remote control right as his son is attempting to throw the "Force" upon the sedan. The little boy's reaction is priceless.

I have no idea if the creative minds behind the commercial are Christians, but their 60 seconds of art were humorous, sweet, and effectively placed a positive feeling in me toward their product. The more we have Christians generating great work like that, the less trash will be out there.

Instead of condemning the

Instead of condemning the darkness, we can produce so much light that the darkness is dispelled.

sense of calling even in so-called "secular" work.

The cobbler could sense the smile of God upon his latest pair of shoes made for the glory of the state of the glory of the

Super Bowl MVP Rodgers: God comes first

local reports) — NFL experts and newspaper headline writers have been quick to label Green Hattiesburg, went Bay starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers, named last Sunday evening as the most valuable player of Super Bowl XLV, as the "Leader of the Pack."

Leading the Packers to the their first Super Bowl title in more than a decade will do that but Rodgers made it clear during Media Day before the big game that he only wants to be a leader of God's pack when it comes to influencing others to see his faith in Jesus Christ.

"We all have a platform; we all have a message in our lives," Rodgers told Baptist Press and a worldwide media urnout, which ringed his indi-

vidual interview area. "I just try to follow Jesus example, leading by example."

A native of Chico, Ca., Rodgers was offered only one college football scholarship from a school in the Midwest but chose instead to play at a community college near his home. After one season at the community college, he was signed to a scholarship by the University of California.

During his six years with the Packers, his career has

seen enough twists and turns, dead ends, and detours to test anyone's faith. An expected top 10 NFL draft choice, he wasn't chosen until the end of the first round for reasons he

He stood on the sidelines for nree seasons while Packers uarterback Brett Favre, a native

TLW numbers rise

Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, went through his yearly "will-he-or-won't-he" retirement routine as Packers OB.

Finally given a chance to start three years ago when the Packers released Farve, Rogers top quarterbacks in the league without forgetting his past, present, and future in Christ. "God always has a plan forus a path Sometimes for us, a path. Sometimes we wish we knew i sooner," Rodgers said "but He always shows

up His way."

He credits his parents, Ed and Darla Rodgers, who still live in Northern California where he was raised, for showing him a loving and Christ-centered household. He also remains

close to his two longtime accountability partners, Pastors Andrew Burchett of the Neighborhood Church in Chico, Ca., where he grew up, and Young Life Christian youth group leader Matt Hock.

Even in the midst of the

craziness of Super Bowl week and Media Day at Cowboys Stadium, Rodgers had already checked in with his accountability team. "They won't be here Sunday, but they've been calking and texting me," he said. "Matt sent me a photo of

Rodgers

his entire Young Life group decked out in Packers gear." Rodgers' quiet and humble testimony has been enough to inspire Christian NFL fans everywhere and his own team-

Rookie defensive end C.J.
Wilson, whose father is a
Pentecostal minister in Mt. Olive,
N.C., said he really didn't know
what to expect when he showed
up for his first NFL season this
year — but when he saw the experience of his star quarter-back and his witness, Wilson felt

encouraged about his own faith.
"I think it does help when your superstar quarterback is walking with God. I've been blessed to be around him and see how God makes all things possi-ble in our lives," Wilson said.

Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings is one of Rodgers receivers and teammates on the field but more importantly, a spiritual brother on and off the field. He said he was determined to let last Sunday's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers be his platform for God.

"I just want to let people know what it's all about. One of

given, much is required,' and I'm required to have a voice [for God] because I have a stage and a plat-form," Jennings said. "Number one, all glory goes to God. That's where it starts and that's where it finishes."

His father, Greg Sr., is the pastor of Progressive Deliverance Ministries in Kalamazoo, Mi.

Packers defensive tackle Ryan Pickett has been inspired to join an anti-pornography cam-paign in the NFL this year to help rid the destructive influence among his friends and teammates. He said he had to turn down the invitations of his teammates this week and other times who wanted him to go places

he knew was not right.
"I value my family and my wife. I try to stay away from that," Pickett said.

Green Bay kicker Mason Crosby doesn't have to be reminded about the number of Super Bowl games which have come down to a final touchdown or field goal, including the last Super Bowl held in Texas when the New England

Patriots won Super Bowl
XXXVIII on a last-second kick
in Houston on Feb. 1, 2004.

He said his faith in Christ
won't allow him to be defined by
a single kick. "I think He helps me knowing that kicking is what I do, not who I am. It's not everything that I am. I can escape knowing that my relationship with Christ is what carries me."

Crosby has also noticed his quarterback's faith and his example to his teammates and the sports world. "Aaron has a great relationship with the Lord," Crosby said. "He's the face of the franchise and it helps to see he's living the message all of the time. "I'm always reading in the Proverbs and Psalms to relax my

mind before we play," Crosby added. "I know that God cares for me all the time regardless of any outcome here.



THE SECOND

FRONT PAGE

**PUBLISHED SINCE 1877** 

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 6

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT Now!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death (I renent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The number of commitments by African youth to biblical purity through True Love Waits International stands at more than 959,000 since LifeWay Christian Resources launched its strategic initiative there in the summer of 2007. During that three-and-a-half-year period, more than 1.6 million young people in Africa heard the True Love Waits message promoting sexual abstinence until marriage. In addition, nearly 46,000 married adults have committed to faithfulness, and more than 41,600 decisions to follow Jesus Christ have been recorded by True Love Waits team members. From April to October 2010, the total grew by more than 70,000 African youth, according to TLW leaders. In the Philippines, nearly 22,000 students signed commitment cards last year after going through training, with plans in place for expanding outreach to Filipino youth between ages 15 to 24 beginning this year. True Love Waits International launched in that country in 2009. In Africa, the greatest response to True Love Waits is in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. In November, True Love Waits International South Africa was approved as a registered organization, and ministry partnerships there are growing, reported Sharon Pumpelly, lead consultant for True Love Waits International. During a presentation in Zambia, one girl stood and said, "True Love Waits is a good program. We have benefited and our lives have changed for the better. This program is different from our peer-educating programs because it is bringing salvation [in addition to] promoting sexual purity." The Zambian girl concluded by making an appeal to True Love Waits team members "to come and train us as presenters." "There are many more requests and hopefully we will be able to meet those," Pumpelly said. "T believe God is using True Love Waits to reach the next generation for Christ and that He is raising up people who are hungry and passionate for the message of purity."

Mississippi College president Howell W. Todd announces Feb. 5 that he will retire after seven years at the school to spend more time

"General Manuel Noriega surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ and confessed Him as Lord and Savior on May 15, 1990," says Frank Pollard, during a sermon at First Church, Jackson. He was relaying reports from a warden and chaplain at the Miami institution where

Looking back

Two small work groups of key Baptist leaders endorse the use of birth control measures and planned parenthood during an annual workshop sponsored by the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

**PIBLIOCIPHER** y Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004

OWZ XAN UWZM WO PWM BE IHBLR, CKM IWUNZOHS, EACZINZ XACK CKT XUWNMPNM EUWZM, IBNZLBKP NQNK XW **МВОВМВКР** CEHKMNZ WO EWHS CKM EJBZBX, CKM WO XAN DWBKXE CKM GCZZWU, CKM BE C MBELNZKNZ WO XAN CKM XAWHPAXE

ANFZNOE OWHZ: XUN-

BKXNKXE WO

ANCZX.

Clue: U = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James One: Thirteen

CLASSIFIED ADS

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS CUR. SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON rently accepting resumes through April 30, Christian owned, All home improve

PRAYER POINTS -ANSWERED PRAYER

Does God answer prayer? The answer to that question is yes. He absolutely does. From a biblical perspective, He promised that He does. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall the service of the said of the service of the be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt.7:7-8). All of its great possibility and power is open to us. From a practical standpoint, the answer is still yes, for whether in the Bible or in everyday life many of us everyday life many of us have experienced the won-der of God's prayer answer-ing goodness, He does

tend to want Him to answer yes. That may work with children sometimes and maybe many times as they make requests of their parents. Certainly, moms and dads answer, "Yes," from time to time, but there are times that they absolutely know better. They know that what the child is asking for would not be good for the child or maybe for anyone else. Parents have a way of being slightly more mature than children are and for sure, our Heavenly Father sure, our Heavenly Father knows beyond our limited understanding and far beyond our finite view. So He does not always answer, "Yes, my child." In some cases, it is, "No!"

We generally do not like that answer. As time passes, many a testimony could be given reflecting on the bless-



ings of not receiving what we have asked. The Father may have said no to a relationship that seemed to be so impor-tant to us or a job that we may have wanted. Maybe we were calling for help and He recognized that we needed to grow or stretch. Maybe it obviously, He does not always answer our prayers in the way that we want Him to. As the children of God, we are still children and we tend to want Him to answer the control of the contro was something frivolous or

> thing for us by simply saying, "No, my child." ing, "No, my child."
>
> Then there are those times when the answer is neither yes nor no and He answers in a different way. The Scriptures says, "Now to Scriptures says, "Now to him who is able to do abundantly exceedingly more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us" (Eph. 3:20). There is no question that as the children of God we are

appointing as it may be, our Father may do a wonderful

far less than the grand things that He has in store for us. Our vision may be small, our faith tiny, and our hopes almost non-existent. God has good things for His children and our hopes almost non-existent. children and even better than we can imagine.

While He does answer prayer sometimes yes sometimes no, and some-times in a different way, at times His answer is, "later." Living in a world of instant gratification and demanding that "I want my way and I want it when I want it," it is hard for us to imagine and even more difficult for us to deal with waiting for His answer to come later. God knows what He is doing and His timing is always right.
When the children of

Israel were in bondage Egypt, they cried out to God. Generation after generation, their pleas went up to God. While it seemed as

though God did not hear and His answer was not forthcoming immediately, His answer was in process.
His leader was being developed and His answer was,
"later." As you pray, you can follow the Model Prayer of our Lord, "Thy kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Broaden your understanding of prayer and trust Him when He says, "Yes, no, I have a different plan, or later." He hears His children. He will hear you, and He knows how to answer in a way that ultimately will honor Him and bless you.

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#### COLLEGE NEWS

Pineville, Louisiana native Ashley Cockerham won the Miss Mississippi College pageant Jan. 27. A communications major with a concentration in public relations, Cockerham is the daughter of Ronnie and Barbara Cockerham.

Joshua Wilson, a junior social science major from Brookhaven, was recently named editor-in-chief of William Carey University's student newspaper, The Cobbler. A 2010 graduate of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wilson served as editor of student newspaper, The Wolf Tales, from 2008-2009. He currently serves as the secretary of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wesley Foundation Executive Board.



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February 10, 2011

ONLINE TRAINING

OR WMU MISSIONS & WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training for missions leaders.
The following seven conferences are now available:
• How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions

These online conferences are designed to train missions leaders in the local association and church to facilitate missions education and min-

To participate you must register online. Online registration begins February 1, 2011. Register online:

For more information about online training please contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org.

On-Call Volunteers

On-Call Missions Volunteers/Teams exist to help meet

ministry needs within our state. Sign up today if you or your

need for On-Call Missions Volunteers/Teams.

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· How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry

· How to Involve Adults in Missions

How to Involve Students in Missions

How to Involve Children in Missions

istries as needed in their ministry environment.

· How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

#### 2011 CAMP GARAYWA

Register Now! \$155 per campe

Camp is an incredible place where campers can meet new friends, explore other cultures, interact with missionaries, and experience the great outdoors. We learn more

about God and His purpose for our lives. Garaywa is owned and operated by MS WMU and is located in Clinton, Miss.

#### SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 6-10 Missions Camp for Girls June 13-17 Missions Camp for Girls June 20-24 Missions Camp for Girls June 27-July 1 Missions Camp for Girls/Students July 4-8 Missions Camp for Girls/Students July 11-15 Missions Camp for Girls July 18-22 Missions Camp for Girls

July 25-29 Missions Camp for Girls **GIRLS** are those having completed grades 3-6

**STUDENTS** are those having completed grades 7-12.

Register online: Garaywa.org. For more information: 601-292-3316.

We are looking for volunteers who can commit from a Monday orning to Friday afternoon.

church would like to receive e-mail notices about ministry needs in our state. Also, let us know when you may have a www.mbcb.org/mission\_strategy/wmu/mission

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Camp Garaywa is looking for RNs or LPNs to help with summer camp.

If interested, contact Erica Hagar at ehagar@mbcb.org or 601-292-3315 for details

2011 Family Fest

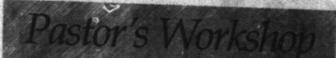
Wed., July 20, 2011 - Sun., July 24, 20

r-on missions project designed for families with children 6 years and older (any volunteers are welcome - you don't have to be a family to participate). Volunteers will participate in a variety of ministry projects.

This event is cosponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's Ministry (MBCB), and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).

THE BAPTIST RECORD

FEBRUARY 10, 2011



#### THE CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

is a place for every Christ-following artist and teacher-no matter what

the size or style of your

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your worship services. It is

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### 2011 CLM Retreat March 24-26, 2011

"Ministry From the Heart ... in Prayer for Mississippi

Guest Speaker

TERRI BLACKSTOCK has had 25 years of success as a novelist. She makes her home in Mississippi, where she and her husband, Ken, are

enjoying their empty nest after raising three children. Since Blackstock made her commitment to write He has opened door after door for her. She is excited about using her gift to challenge other Christians and point unbelievers to Him.

nication Services: 601-292-3378 or jchen@mbcb.org

# Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop



March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Parkway Baptist Church 802 North Frontage Road Clinton

For pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel.

For more info, contact Keith Gordon at kgordon@mbcb.org or 601-292-3307 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307

st Student Union is the Mississippi Baptist witness to more than 32 university campuses in Mississippi. With more than 110,000 or ing and approximately half of those being Baptist preferences. unities for witness and ministry are tremendous.



BSU programs are staffed by full-time, part-time and volunteers. Most full-time salaries are paid by the Cooperative Progra giving of Mississippi Baptist churche hese same churches also prov local programming resources as the support these campus ministries.



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Tournament is designed to challenge teens to express their faith verbally. It demands serious time and effort, but with a tremendous payoff. Students grow spiritually when engaged in research, study, prayer, and practice of preparing a speech. Today's speakers will be ready to stand for Christ in their churches, schools, work places, and work places, and communities. They will develop skills to articulate truth in a way that people will hear and understand.

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First Baptist Church Executive Pastor of Worship First Baptist Church Jacksonville, Florida Jackson, Miss.

May 12-13, 2011

March 4-5, 2011 Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

a missions weekender for teenage only, grades 7-12 and their leaders

IGNITE is a ministry of Mississippi WMU

# Special Three month prayer emphasis for HouseTops

**2011 MBCB Emphasis** Covering MS in Prayer

Associational **Prayer Rallies** 



"These all continued in one accord in prayer ... " Acts 1:14 KJV

#### Thursday, February 10

- · Lexington 9 a.m.
- Belzoni 11 a.m.
- Greenville 2 p.m.

#### Tuesday, February 22

- Kosciusko 9 a.m.
- Ackerman 11 a.m.
- Macon 2 p.m.
- Louisville 4 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 23

- Brookhaven 10 a.m.
- Hazlehurst noon

#### Prayer request focus for participants at rallies and for yourself.

#### 1. SELF

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me . . ." Psalm 66:18

#### 2. SERVANTS

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:1-2

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word ..."

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! "Matthew 23:37



for security reasons), a Christian leader in the region.
Turner, who did work in former Soviet countries after the fall of the Iron Curtain, said he doubts the current unrest will follow that same trail to religious freedom. "We are talking about radically different cultural backgrounds — radically, radically different," he said.

Christianity. Plus what had happened there was complete suppression of religion."

In the Middle East, the deep-

Miss Eden S. - 4/26/05 Last Frontier

"In the former Soviet Union, for most of the Iron Curtain countries, their background was some form of historic

Workers urge preparation now for Egypt aftermath is Islam, a religion most already claim, he said.

CAIRO (BP) — Louder than a storm sizen is the alarm the Middle East is sounding to Christians in the West. Ripken agrees the two "There's serious urgency here," said Nik Ripken (name changed for security reasons), who has served 25 years with situations aren't parallel. "The USSR did have a head — 'a' head — while Islam is a Medusa with International Mission multiple heads," he said. Board and is an expert on the persecuted church in Muslim "I want us to think about what is out there to replace these govern-ments, and there are not a Around the world, people are watching and waiting to see if governments will fall in lot of options."

It's true, Turner said. see if governments will fall in North Africa and the Middle East — and if they do topple, into whose hands they will fall. "Are we prepared to face even greater persecution for the sake of the Gospel?" Ripken asked, "or what if greater freedom does come? What if there is access to the People in the region don't have a heritage of or cul-tural mindset for civil rights or democracy, so that's not a natural assumption or desire for them. Instead, the unrest mean military What if there is access to the Gospel unprecedented in this part of the world?" coups or elections that result in takeover by the Muslim Brotherhood, one However the political storm plays out, it's imperative that believers stand at the ready in practical ways, Ripken said, because the result might not be in the form of a white knight riding in with a wagonload of New Testaments. of the world's oldest and largest Islamist political

argest Islamist political groups. What then?
The message of a more Islamic government could be that the population has strayed from true Islam, Ripken said. "We can pre-pare for harder physical persecution of [new] believers and more discrimination for historical Christians and expulsion of Western workers," he said.

New Testaments.

"There is an extremely naive thing folks are thinking, that if the governments fall, everything will automatically go our way and be wide open, but that's highly unlikely," said Greg Turner (name changed for security reasons) "There will be martyrs. Satan will try to scare us."

In Iran, for instance, the government was overthrown but the nation ended up with even greater restrictions, but a tighter government also can foster greater openness in the hearts of people, Turner said. "The result has been disillusionment on the part of peo-ple with their own heritage, and that has resulted in sig-nificant [Christian] growth," Ripken said.

With that in mind, Christians have to plan immediately for the long term, Ripken said, learning the language and culture

intensively, and training believers who can work in secular and business-related have for the sake of the Kingdom of God?" he asked. Christians need to work as if

MOVING FORWARD — Christians worship at Egypt's largest evangelical church in Cairo, in this file photo taken before the current protests and violence in Cairo and other cities. Long a minority isolated from Muslims by culture, tradition, and fear, Egyptian Christians are showing increasing boldness in spreading the Gospel. "You see lots of initiative springing up at the grass-roots level for prayer, for church planting and discipling," says a worker. (BP photo courtesy of International Mission Board)

the doors will close in three years or less, he said, and should "ring the bell loud in our churches for this period of positions. As that happens, they need to work among dispersed members of that people group in other countries, unprecedented opportunity and call for hundreds to go and as well as use the Internet to "We need to be always looking toward the day when the

support."
"Be urgent in the task doors will begin to open... and when they open, we need to sow deeply," Ripken said. What if those doors open From day one get the Gospel into local hands," Ripken said. "Meet the felt needs of wide as a result of the current unrest? "If God opens the these people for the basics of education, food, clean doors so that we can send water. Share the Gospel and hundreds to the Islamic world all that Jesus did and does to rather than single digits, will show them we we step up and sell all that we He loves them. show them we love them as

Beware the danger of driveby ministry, he said. Avoid short-term work and trips that "seemingly make these places and people trophies," and don't boast about their country's fall or misfortune. Churches must commit to a series of mission trips that continue their initial efforts.

Commence of the commence of th

No matter what happens, do sow broadly - and with love, Ripkin pointed out.

This is not about democracy or totalitarianism. It is not about religion. It is about how God wants His children to live in a right relationship with Him and how that affects ... how we treat our neighbors,

## Spring Area Senior Adult Rallies

March 8

Call Archie, 601-736-2254 or TriCounty@cblink.com

Call Mark, 228-826-5

Call Jim, 662-256-8778

Call Buddy, 601-938-8668

Call Mark, 601-856-6177

The 2011 CMD theme is "Neighbor to Neighbor."
On February 19, 2011, children all over the USA and

Call Talmadge, 601-669-6595 or tamandmolliesmith@ychn.com

# Children's Ministry Day 2011



some countries will be involved in hands-on projects that impact their communities with the love of Christ. National WMU has created a Children's Ministry Day 2011 Pack (8446250-1186-3 or W117106 for \$11.99) to assist you in your planning. The pack includes a planning guide with project ideas and learning activities and promotional posters.

For more info, contact tanderson@mbcb.org or 601-292-3323

Mr. Drew Williams - 4/1/93

Miss Taylor Inmon - 4/11/02 Parents: Tony & Denita American Peoples

Mr. Mason N. -4/17/91 Parents: J&J

Miss Mary Katelyn Simpson European Peoples

Miss Sarah N. -4/21/94 Parents: J&J

Miss Kimberly Carlton 4/24/90 Parents: David & Pamela Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Elisabeth Savannah Johnson -4/25/07 Parents: Lew & Brandi Sub-Saharan African Peoples Miss Lindsey Williams

Parents: Matt & Shea Mr. Cale Little - 4/28/91

Parents: Bob & Amy Sub-Saharan African Peoples Mr. Christopher Carlton Parents: David & Pamela

Sub-Saharan African Peoples The Johnsons were in transition Miss Abigail Johnson

11/26/09 Parents: Lew & Brandi Sub-Saharan African Peoples

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthaays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together, cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.



share on a broader scale.

**Holmes County Courthouse** 

reys County Humphreys County Courthouse v 10, 2011 102 Castleman St

Attala County Courthouse 230 W. Washington St Kosciusko 39090

Greenville City Hall

340 Main St

**Choctaw County** February 22, 2011 11 AM

February 22, 2011 2 PM

February 22, 2011

Lincoln County February 23, 2011

**Choctaw County Courthouse** 22 E. Quinn St Ackerman 39735

Noxubee County Courthouse 505 S. Jefferson S Macon 39341

> First Baptist Church 205 South Church St Louisville 39339

Lincoln County Courthouse 300 South 2nd S Brookhaven 39601 Copiah County February 23, 2011 NOON

**Prentiss County** February 28, 2011 11 AM

February 28, 2011

Copiah County Courthouse Courthouse Dr Hazlehurst 39083

> Booneville City Hall 203 N. Main St Booneville 38829

Iuka Mineral Springs Park East Pike Street

HOUSE TOPS



The ad, it turns out, nelped save at least one life. "It created a national dialogue about the true defini-tion of choice as it pertains to the issue of abortion," the group said. The award will be presented in late February. The Barna Group estimated

that more than five million people reconsidered their position on the issue of abortion after viewing the ad, and at least one woman contacted Focus on the Family to tell them she decided not to abort her child because of the commercial.

In the ad, Pam Tebow conveyed the story of how she commercial had changed her chose, against doctors' recomlife — and her baby's. mendations, to continue her pregnancy with Tim even after contracting a serious illness. The baby was born healthy and went on to become a college football star at the University of Florida, win the Heisman trophy as the best collegiate football athlete in the country, and play in the National Football League.

Pro-abortion groups were vehement in their reaction. "This ad is frankly offensive," according to Erin Matson, action vice-president of the National Organization for Women. "It is hate masquerading as love. It sends a message that abortion is always a mistake."

On the other hand, a young woman named Susan sent an e-mail to Focus on Visit us online at www.mbcb.org, to learn more about ssissippi Baptist opportunities.

"I need to thank you so much. It's not like me to reach out to strangers or agencies for help. I was truly feeling lost. I saw the ad during the Super Bowl and it stuck in my head," Susan wrote. "I feel like that commercial like that commercial was made to reach out to me.

Susan watched the ad repeatedly online that week and then went to the Focus on the Family website to watch the related interview. "I think I was partly afraid that God was mad at me for

getting pregnant out of wed-lock," she wrote. "While I know He isn't proud of me for it, thank you for reminding me that He still loves me. I didn't need to compound one sin with another. My mistake can't be erased, but I

The baby's father wanted Susan to abort the child, and she knew the relational and financial struggles would be significant if she chose life.

Tim and Pam Tebow

The ad and follow-up support from a Focus on the Family employee helped her continue the pregnancy.

I cannot thank you

"I cannot thank you enough for putting me back on the right track and reminding me what actually matters

in life," Susan wrote. "I don't know how I forgot something so important, but I did."

After the baby's birth last fall, Susan visited the Focus on the Family headquarters with the child to show them the difference the comparable made in the difference t

#### JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Walters and Ables

#### STAFF CHANGES

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, has called Justin Knight as pastor effective Dec. 5, 2010. Shown are Knight, his wife Rachel, and their son Duncan.



1. The Knights

- New Home Church, Smith County, held a spe-cial service Jan. 9 for Scott Walters, Associational Missions Director, former Mary, were presented with a gift and Frankie Clark was guest speaker. Shown are Walters and Norris Ables, pastor.
- New Home Church, Fulton County, licensed Jimmy Dale Sartin to the ministry Jan. 16. Shown are Lexi Beth Sartin, Audri Sartin, Penni Sartin, and pastor Michael Warren. pastor Michael Warren. Also, Tyler Pannel was licensed to the ministry of music Jan. 23. Shown are Pannel and Warren.
- New Bethel Church, teacher Jessie McCrory (back) were among the participants Jan. 30 during the 5th Sunday singing at New Bethel, which combines congregations of this church with that of Liberty Church, Jefferson Community. Shown, from left, are students Leigh Ann Parker, Kathleen Lott, and Emily Morgan.







3. New Bethel Church,

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FEBRUARY 13, 2011

#### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE God Loves for His People to be Loyal to Him

By Becky Brown

when the dealer declares them to be in "mint" condition. Long before anything in this universe was antique, God, the Eternal Ancient of Days, desired for His people to be in "meant" condition. God created us in His mage. God came to us in the Garden of Eden and through the manger in Bethlehem. By His grace and mercy, God continues to call us to Himself gh the ministry of the Spirit. God desires for His through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God desires for His created ones to love Him and serve Him in faithfulness and loyalty. We have either rejected that call or accepted that call. There is no middle ground. Those who reject God's love separate themselves from

Him. Those who confess and repent are Bredeemed and restored to Him. God declares them to be in "meant" condition. Certainly, God loves the stay-

ers who come and serve along-side Him. Be assured, God also loves the strayers who swerve away from Him. Our story of Hosea and his love for his wife Gomer is Old Testament living proof of present day extended grace. In Hosea 1-3, we saw the grace. In Hosea 1-3, we saw the grandeur of the outrageous love of God displayed through the home life of His prophet. This portrait of a Lord Who loves the unloyal draws me back into His arms every time.

The layers of the onion of the sins of Israel/Judah are peeled apart in Hosea 4-6. Tears should pour as we read

these chapters and see the condition of the people of God in the day of Hosea. Please, will you quickly grab your copy of today's newspaper as you read the rest of this book of prophecy? You must admit that

the comparisons of the spiritual condition of Israel/Judah to our nation and our world today become blatantly obvious. God's word given through Hosea should still ring true to us and cause us to check our loyalty and obedience. In the hand of God, would you rather be a fragrant rose enclosed or a stinky onion exposed? Observance of the Sabbath is

not mentioned in these three chapters. Tragically, the other nine commandments are broken one by one, verse by revealing verse. Evil priests and false prophets and prideful potentates joined the wayward people as they marched squarely into the ditch of spiritual adultery. The prophet Isaiah was a

contemporary of the prophet Hosea. Through Isaiah, the Lord was pleading with the people: "Come, let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like\_crimson, they shall be as wool." In Hosea 6:1-3, the people appear to respond to the ple appear to respond to the Lord by saying, "Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us, but He will heal us. He has

My grandmother used to say to me: "Bec, if you're not as close to God as you were this time a year ago, who moved? Sweetheart, it sho' wasn't God who did the moving." She who did the moving." She would also say, "Your actions speak so loud, I can't hear one word you are saying!" In Hosea 6:4, the Lord reveals the truth about the people. Their loyalty was compared to the fading fog of the morning and the evaporating dew of the dawn. God's preference is revealed in Hosea preference is revealed in Hosea 6:6 as He says, "I delight in loy-alty rather than sacrifice and in

wounded us, but He will ban-

dage us...revive us...raise us

up...He will come to us."

the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." The royalty of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords deserves the loyalty of His spiritual subjects.

Parking lots make great classrooms for lessons in humilclassrooms for lessons in humility. Every time I slip and fall or trip and fall, my first prideful response is to jump up quickly while looking around to see if anyone was watching me make a complete idiot of myself. Only when I am sure the coast is clear (i.e. no one is laughing. is clear (i.e., no one is laughing at me) do I check for bodily injuries. The most convicting verse in this week's lesson is found in Hosea 7:2. Nothing escapes the gaze of God, espe-cially our sins. God sees. God remembers. Sins build a wall between us and God: In Romans 5:8, the Apostle Paul calls us "YET SINNERS." God longs to hear our confessions and see the fruitful evidence of true repentance expressed in right living. Meant condition? Loyalty.

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

#### EXPLORE THE BIBLE U-Turn Here - And Now!

2 Kings 17:5-9a,13-15,18-20

By Dr. W. Wayne VanHorn

places prohibit U-Many places prohibit Uturns on certain streets in an
effort to improve traffic flow.
Every now and then however,
U-turns are absolutely imperative, like when a bridge is
washed out or a hazardous
chemical truck has overturned. In such cases people must make a U-turn and find a safer route. This week's lesson focus on the fall of Israel, the northern kingdom. The goal of the lesson is to examine attitudes and actions that invite God's judgment and to help us repent without delay of any disobedience. The title, "U-Turn Here inds us of both

And Now!" reminds us of both
the urgency and the appropriateness of repenting of our sins
and getting right with God.
According to 2 Kings 17:5,
God's instrument of judgment
against the northern kingdom
was the king of Assyria, known

from archaeological records as Shalmaneser V. He invaded the land

v. He invaded the land and came to Israel's capital, Samaria, and Vabesieged it three years. A few years ago, my wife and I stood on the tel of Samaria. stood on the tel of Samaria. From the top of that prominent hill, one can clearly see why the strongest army in the world, Assyria, had such difficulty capturing the city. Not only was Samaria a fortified and walled city on the top of a large hill, it is surrounded by other prominent hills, making logistics for an invading army very difficult. Samaria had food and water stores for a profood and water stores for a prolonged siege. The Assyriens finally breached Samaria's

full credit for the fall Samaria. ported and other lands conquered by the Assyrians (2 Kings 17:6). However, this was no mere military inspired writer indi-cated, "All this took

place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God... They worshiped other gods" (2 Kings 17:7; NIV). Though God had forewarned them and then reminded them, the people lived like those whom God had driven from the land. They also lived according to Jeroboam's practices, which set up rival shrines, false priests, alternative feast days, and had people worship gold-en calves (2 Kings 17:8-9). God was faithful to send

walls after three years. The prophets saying, "Turn from northern kingdom came to an abrupt end in 722 B.C.

Shalmaneser V died about the same time and Sargon II took his place and also took was faithful to send the first to send them from His presence" (2 the title of the lesson us: U-Turn — Here is to judge another when His purtoses call for such to happen. Wan Horn is Christian Studies and Mississippi College.

you through my servants the prophets" (2 Kings 17:13; NIV). Unfortunately, the people refused to listen (2 Kings 17:14-15). What about you? Do you have things in your life that you know displease God? Do you cling to private sins, thinking you really do not have to repent? Failure to repent of known sin is the same as failing to make that existing I ling to make that spiritual U-turn that God tells us to make.

The people of Israel failed to make the required U-turn God instructed them to make. Therefore, "the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from His presence" (2 Kings 17:18). They ran headlong into judgment in the form of the Assyrian army. For the of the Assyrian army. For the writer of 2 Kings, the Assyrians did not conquer Israel by sheer military might, but rather because God rejected Israel and "gave them into the hands of plunderers, until He thrust them from His presence" (2 Kings 17:20). The theological image is strong. God is sover-

Israel ceased to exist becau they ceased to honor the Lord and to do His will. Though Israel's territory contained such venerated places as Bethel and Shechem, the nation took its place in the graveyard of nations. Disobedience and refusal to take a U-turn had resulted in downfall, defeat,

What about America? Are there lessons our nation can learn from Israel's demise? First, I pray America can rediscover God and remember His sovereign might. Second, if we reverence the Lord above all others, He will watch over our nation as He once did. Third, on both a national and individual level. Americans can make a U-turn, by repenting of sins, those things which take us far-ther from God. As I look around the nation or watch the evening news, America seems at the breaking point. Perhaps the title of the lesson is a call to us: U-Turn — Here And Now!

Christian Studies and the Arts at

### Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

rating churches of

cles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable.

Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples. tion items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No land-scape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will

be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, FAX: (601) 292-3330, E-mail:



1. Liberty Hill Church, Pope



2. Unity Church, Georgetown



- Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently had their S.T.A.R.S. puppet ministry team perform a Christmas program. Shown is the team and their leaders. Jay Anderson, pastor.
- Unity Church, Georgetown, held baby dedication Jan. 30. Shown are Kyleigh Michele McLemore with parents Jacob and Heather; and Maddox Lee Wilson with parents Ryan and Brandi.
- Fellowship Church, Ellisville, had Men's Day Jan. 23. Shown are the participants.
- Simmons Memorial Church, Flora, ordained Chad Douglas and Gary Gaines as deacons Jan. 16. Shown are Douglas, Wilson Bishop, and Gaines.
- 5. Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, will host Jerry Trammell in concert Feb. 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received. For more informa-tion, call (601) 260-7114.



3. Fellowship Church, Ellisville



4. Simmons Memorial Church, Flora

# GRID RON Men's Conference

Presented by Phil Waldrep Ministries

as 599













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